

**Petition for Relief From a Conviction or Sentence
By a Person in State Custody**

(Petition Under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for a Writ of Habeas Corpus)

Instructions

1. To use this form, you must be a person who is currently serving a sentence under a judgment against you in a state court. You are asking for relief from the conviction or the sentence. This form is your petition for relief.
2. You may also use this form to challenge a state judgment that imposed a sentence to be served in the future, but you must fill in the name of the state where the judgment was entered. If you want to challenge a federal judgment that imposed a sentence to be served in the future, you should file a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 in the federal court that entered the judgment.
3. Make sure the form is typed or neatly written.
4. You must tell the truth and sign the form. If you make a false statement of a material fact, you may be prosecuted for perjury.
5. Answer all the questions. You do not need to cite law. You may submit additional pages if necessary. If you do not fill out the form properly, you will be asked to submit additional or correct information. If you want to submit any legal arguments, you must submit them in a separate memorandum. Be aware that any such memorandum may be subject to page limits set forth in the local rules of the court where you file this petition.
6. You must pay a fee of \$5. If the fee is paid, your petition will be filed. If you cannot pay the fee, you may ask to proceed in forma pauperis (as a poor person). To do that, you must fill out the last page of this form. Also, you must submit a certificate signed by an officer at the institution where you are confined showing the amount of money that the institution is holding for you. If your account exceeds \$ _____, you must pay the filing fee.
7. In this petition, you may challenge the judgment entered by only one court. If you want to challenge a judgment entered by a different court (either in the same state or in different states), you must file a separate petition.
8. When you have completed the form, send the original and _____ copies to the Clerk of the United States District Court at this address:

**Clerk, United States District Court for
Address
City, State Zip Code**

If you want a file-stamped copy of the petition, you must enclose an additional copy of the petition and ask the court to file-stamp it and return it to you.

9. **CAUTION:** You must include in this petition all the grounds for relief from the conviction or sentence that you challenge. And you must state the facts that support each ground. If you fail to set forth all the grounds in this petition, you may be barred from presenting additional grounds at a later date.
10. **CAPITAL CASES:** If you are under a sentence of death, you are entitled to the assistance of counsel and should request the appointment of counsel.

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**PETITION UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 2254 FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS BY A PERSON IN STATE CUSTODY**

United States District Court		District: Massachusetts
Name (under which you were convicted): Bruce Cooper		Docket or Case No.:
Place of Confinement : North Central Correctional Institution Gardner, MA 01440		Prisoner No.: W101125
Petitioner (include the name under which you were convicted) Bruce Cooper		Respondent (authorized person having custody of petitioner) Matthew Divris, Superintendent, North Central Correctional Institution-Gardner
The Attorney General of the State of: Massachusetts		

PETITION

1. (a) Name and location of court that entered the judgment of conviction you are challenging:

Bristol County Superior Court

186 South Main Street

Fall River, MA 02720

(b) Criminal docket or case number (if you know): **1073CR01082**

2. (a) Date of the judgment of conviction (if you know): **July 16, 2012**

(b) Date of sentencing: **July 26, 2012**

3. Length of sentence: **10-15 years**

4. In this case, were you convicted on more than one count or of more than one crime? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Identify all crimes of which you were convicted and sentenced in this case:

001- rape of child under 16 - 10-15 years

002 - rape of child under 16 - vacated and dismissed

003 - indecent assault and battery under 14 - vacated and dismissed

004 - indecent assault and battery under 14 - not guilty verdict

005 - rape of child under 16 - 10-15 years, concurrent with 001

6. (a) What was your plea? (Check one)

☒ (1) Not guilty ☐ (3) Nolo contendere (no contest)
☐ (2) Guilty ☐ (4) Insanity plea

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(b) If you entered a guilty plea to one count or charge and a not guilty plea to another count or charge, what did you plead guilty to and what did you plead not guilty to? _____

(c) If you went to trial, what kind of trial did you have? (Check one)

☒ Jury ☐ Judge only

7. Did you testify at a pretrial hearing, trial, or a post-trial hearing?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction?

☒ Yes ☐ No

9. If you did appeal, answer the following:

(a) Name of court: Massachusetts Appeals Court

(b) Docket or case number (if you know): 2017-P-0303

(c) Result: Order denying motion for new trial affirmed

(d) Date of result (if you know): December 19, 2018

(e) Citation to the case (if you know): Commonwealth v. Cooper, 94 Mass. App. Ct. 1114 (2018)

(f) Grounds raised: 1. By Omitting Numerous Denials from the Interview Video, Counsel Provided Ineffective Assistance of Counsel

2. Trial Counsel provided ineffective assistance by allowing misleading video evidence to be presented to the jury

3. Trial counsel's failure to present a medical document noting Mr. Cooper's erectile dysfunction constituted ineffective assistance

4. The judge's failure to instruct on the need to find separate and distinct acts for each of the charges

requires that the convictions and sentences for three charges be vacated as duplicative

(g) Did you seek further review by a higher state court? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, answer the following:

(1) Name of court: Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

(2) Docket or case number (if you know): SJC no. FAR-26575

(3) Result: Application for Further Appellate Review Denied

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(4) Date of result (if you know): April 5, 2019

(5) Citation to the case (if you know): Commonwealth v. Cooper, 481 Mass. 1108 (2019)

(6) Grounds raised: 1. By omitting numerous denials from the interview video, counsel provided ineffective assistance

2. The judge's failure to instruct on the need to find separate and distinct acts for each of the charges

requires the convictions and sentences for three charges be vacated as duplicative

(h) Did you file a petition for certiorari in the United States Supreme Court? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, answer the following:

(1) Docket or case number (if you know):

(2) Result:

(3) Date of result (if you know):

(4) Citation to the case (if you know):

10. Other than the direct appeals listed above, have you previously filed any other petitions, applications, or motions concerning this judgment of conviction in any state court? ☒ Yes ☐ No

11. If your answer to Question 10 was "Yes," give the following information:

(a) (1) Name of court: Bristol County Superior Court

(2) Docket or case number (if you know): 1073CR01082

(3) Date of filing (if you know): January 5, 2015

(4) Nature of the proceeding: Motion for New Trial

(5) Grounds raised:

1. Trial counsel ineffective for failing to present petitioner's denials in videotaped interview with police

2. Trial Counsel ineffective for failing to present medical document showing petitioner suffered from erectile dysfunction

3. Trial counsel ineffective for failing to obtain alleged victim's medical records

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your petition, application, or motion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(7) Result: Motion for New Trial Denied

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(8) Date of result (if you know): January 27, 2017

(b) If you filed any second petition, application, or motion, give the same information:

(1) Name of court: Massachusetts Appeals Court

(2) Docket or case number (if you know): 2017-P-0303

(3) Date of filing (if you know): December 31, 2018

(4) Nature of the proceeding: Petition for Rehearing

(5) Grounds raised:

Court should allow rehearing based on its misapprehension that unredacted video of interview was not in the record

(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your petition, application, or motion?

☐ Yes ☒ No

(7) Result: Petition for rehearing denied

(8) Date of result (if you know): February 27, 2019

(c) If you filed any third petition, application, or motion, give the same information:

(1) Name of court:

(2) Docket or case number (if you know):

(3) Date of filing (if you know):

(4) Nature of the proceeding:

(5) Grounds raised:

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(6) Did you receive a hearing where evidence was given on your petition, application, or motion?

☐ Yes ☐ No

(7) Result: _____

(8) Date of result (if you know): _____

(d) Did you appeal to the highest state court having jurisdiction over the action taken on your petition, application, or motion?

(1) First petition: ☒ Yes ☐ No(2) Second petition: ☒ Yes ☐ No(3) Third petition: ☐ Yes ☐ No

(e) If you did not appeal to the highest state court having jurisdiction, explain why you did not:

12. For this petition, state every ground on which you claim that you are being held in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. Attach additional pages if you have more than four grounds. State the facts supporting each ground. Any legal arguments must be submitted in a separate memorandum.

CAUTION: To proceed in the federal court, you must ordinarily first exhaust (use up) your available state-court remedies on each ground on which you request action by the federal court. Also, if you fail to set forth all the grounds in this petition, you may be barred from presenting additional grounds at a later date.

GROUND ONE: Petitioner's trial counsel deprived him of the effective assistance of counsel under the Sixth and

Fourteenth Amendments to the US Constitution by failing to present available exculpatory evidence to the jury

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

Trial counsel failed to present available exculpatory evidence in the form of 31 denials by petitioner of sexual abuse recorded during his

interview with police. Counsel likewise had 14 separate recorded denials by petitioner that he previously admitted the crimes to his wife.

Counsel did not present petitioner's denials to the jury despite permission from the judge to do so. The redacted version of the interview

presented to the jury by the Commonwealth contained none of these denials, but did include multiple statements by petitioner that he had

been in inappropriate situations with the alleged victim. The Commonwealth argued that sexual abuse could be inferred from those admissions.

(b) If you did not exhaust your state remedies on Ground One, explain why: _____

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(c) Direct Appeal of Ground One:

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue?



Yes



No

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(d) Post-Conviction Proceedings:

(1) Did you raise this issue through a post-conviction motion or petition for habeas corpus in a state trial court?



Yes



No

(2) If your answer to Question (d)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition:

Motion for New Trial

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed:

Bristol County Superior Court

186 S. Main St., Fall River, MA 02720

Docket or case number (if you know):

1073CR01082

Date of the court's decision:

January 27, 2017

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available):

Motion for New Trial Denied

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion or petition?



Yes



No

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion or petition?



Yes



No

(5) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," did you raise this issue in the appeal?



Yes



No

(6) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed:

Massachusetts Appeals Court

One Pemberton Square, Boston MA 02108

Docket or case number (if you know):

2017-P-0303

Date of the court's decision:

December 19, 2018

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available):

Order denying motion for new trial affirmed.

(7) If your answer to Question (d)(4) or Question (d)(5) is "No," explain why you did not raise this issue:

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(e) **Other Remedies:** Describe any other procedures (such as habeas corpus, administrative remedies, etc.) that you have used to exhaust your state remedies on Ground One: _____

GROUND TWO: _____

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) If you did not exhaust your state remedies on Ground Two, explain why: _____

(c) **Direct Appeal of Ground Two:**

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why: _____

(d) **Post-Conviction Proceedings:**

(1) Did you raise this issue through a post-conviction motion or petition for habeas corpus in a state trial court?

☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If your answer to Question (d)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

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Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

_____(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No(5) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," did you raise this issue in the appeal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(6) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

_____(7) If your answer to Question (d)(4) or Question (d)(5) is "No," explain why you did not raise this issue:

- (e) **Other Remedies:** Describe any other procedures (such as habeas corpus, administrative remedies, etc.) that you have used to exhaust your state remedies on Ground Two : _____

GROUND THREE: _____

- (a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

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(b) If you did not exhaust your state remedies on Ground Three, explain why: _____

(c) **Direct Appeal of Ground Three:**

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why: _____

(d) **Post-Conviction Proceedings:**

(1) Did you raise this issue through a post-conviction motion or petition for habeas corpus in a state trial court?

☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If your answer to Question (d)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition: _____

Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(5) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," did you raise this issue in the appeal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(6) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

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(7) If your answer to Question (d)(4) or Question (d)(5) is "No," explain why you did not raise this issue:

(e) **Other Remedies:** Describe any other procedures (such as habeas corpus, administrative remedies, etc.) that you have used to exhaust your state remedies on Ground Three:

GROUND FOUR:

(a) Supporting facts (Do not argue or cite law. Just state the specific facts that support your claim.):

(b) If you did not exhaust your state remedies on Ground Four, explain why:

(c) **Direct Appeal of Ground Four:**

(1) If you appealed from the judgment of conviction, did you raise this issue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If you did not raise this issue in your direct appeal, explain why:

(d) **Post-Conviction Proceedings:**

(1) Did you raise this issue through a post-conviction motion or petition for habeas corpus in a state trial court?

☐ Yes ☐ No

(2) If your answer to Question (d)(1) is "Yes," state:

Type of motion or petition:

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Name and location of the court where the motion or petition was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(3) Did you receive a hearing on your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(4) Did you appeal from the denial of your motion or petition? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(5) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," did you raise this issue in the appeal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(6) If your answer to Question (d)(4) is "Yes," state:

Name and location of the court where the appeal was filed: _____

Docket or case number (if you know): _____

Date of the court's decision: _____

Result (attach a copy of the court's opinion or order, if available): _____

(7) If your answer to Question (d)(4) or Question (d)(5) is "No," explain why you did not raise this issue:

- (e) **Other Remedies:** Describe any other procedures (such as habeas corpus, administrative remedies, etc.) that you have used to exhaust your state remedies on Ground Four: _____

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13. Please answer these additional questions about the petition you are filing:

- (a) Have all grounds for relief that you have raised in this petition been presented to the highest state court having jurisdiction? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If your answer is "No," state which grounds have not been so presented and give your reason(s) for not presenting them:

- (b) Is there any ground in this petition that has not been presented in some state or federal court? If so, which ground or grounds have not been presented, and state your reasons for not presenting them:

No.

14. Have you previously filed any type of petition, application, or motion in a federal court regarding the conviction that you challenge in this petition? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," state the name and location of the court, the docket or case number, the type of proceeding, the issues raised, the date of the court's decision, and the result for each petition, application, or motion filed. Attach a copy of any court opinion or order, if available.

15. Do you have any petition or appeal now pending (filed and not decided yet) in any court, either state or federal, for the judgment you are challenging? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," state the name and location of the court, the docket or case number, the type of proceeding, and the issues raised.

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16. Give the name and address, if you know, of each attorney who represented you in the following stages of the judgment you are challenging:

(a) At preliminary hearing: _____

(b) At arraignment and plea: John J. Connors, 238 North Main Street, Fall River, MA 02720

(c) At trial: John J. Connors, 238 North Main Street, Fall River, MA 02720

(d) At sentencing: John J. Connors, 238 North Main Street, Fall River, MA 02720

(e) On appeal: David Barend, 2 Stonewood Circle, North Attleboro, MA 02760

(f) In any post-conviction proceeding: David Barend, 2 Stonewood Circle, North Attleboro, MA

(g) On appeal from any ruling against you in a post-conviction proceeding: _____

David Barend, 2 Stonewood Circle, North Attleboro, MA 02760

17. Do you have any future sentence to serve after you complete the sentence for the judgment that you are challenging? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(a) If so, give name and location of court that imposed the other sentence you will serve in the future:

(b) Give the date the other sentence was imposed: _____

(c) Give the length of the other sentence: _____

(d) Have you filed, or do you plan to file, any petition that challenges the judgment or sentence to be served in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18. TIMELINESS OF PETITION: If your judgment of conviction became final over one year ago, you must explain why the one-year statute of limitations as contained in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) does not bar your petition.*

[illegible]

(1) A one-year period of limitation shall apply to an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court. The limitation period shall run from the latest of -

- (A) the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;
- (B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such state action;
- (C) the date on which the constitutional right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or
- (D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

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- (2) The time during which a properly filed application for State post-conviction or other collateral review with respect to the pertinent judgment or claim is pending shall not be counted toward any period of limitation under this subsection.

Therefore, petitioner asks that the Court grant the following relief: Release him from the custody of the Respondent
and order a new trial.


or any other relief to which petitioner may be entitled.

/s/ Timothy St. Lawrence

Signature of Attorney (if any)

I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus was placed in the prison mailing system on _____ (month, date, year).

Executed (signed) on 07/01/2020 (date).

x 

Signature of Petitioner

If the person signing is not petitioner, state relationship to petitioner and explain why petitioner is not signing this petition.